



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLETTER



Spring 2009

Number 79

Program Update

Spring is just beginning and April has been a very busy month. I wonder what May has in store for us? No problem though, because with your help things will run smoothly and we will continue to educate our neighbors about recycling in Montgomery County. Your continued support strengthens the Division and our ability to reach the community.

To continue to expand our outreach, don't forget to keep an eye out for activities in your communities. We love to share information at community gatherings. In addition, send me recycling questions you have or hear when you participate in outreach events. I will post answers to the questions in future editions of the Recycletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Recycling Volunteer Coordinator

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Frequently Asked Questions

What happens to the textiles and shoes that are taken to the Transfer Station/Recycling Center?



Textiles are separated into non reusable and reusable textiles. Reusable textiles are taken to local charities for reuse. Non-reusable textiles are recycled into rags, which reduces energy used in bleaching paper products. Other textiles are used for creating new materials such as insulation, or filling for mattresses.

Does recycling save energy?

Mining and preparing materials, such as metals, to create new products uses a lot of energy. Reusing and recycling materials saves energy. The amount of energy saved varies, but as listed on the chart to the right, energy is saved by recycling.

Energy Savings from Recycling	
Product	Energy Used
Aluminum can	95% less
Steel/tin food can	74% less
Plastic bottle	70% less
Paper	64% less

Lead Volunteers Needed!

Want to hone your leadership skills? Interested in helping as a lead volunteer? Lead volunteers help the Division of Solid Waste Services by being the lead in at least 1 event per year. As the lead volunteer, you will chose an event to be the lead volunteer and prior to the event you will receive an outreach material box. At the event you will be our spokesperson, manage other volunteers, and provide information about recycling and waste reduction in Montgomery County. Training is provided.

If you are interested in becoming a lead volunteer, contact Ana Arriaza at 240-777-6445 or e-mail ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Green Yards

As you welcome spring, keep in mind that with planning you can have a healthy and green yard. Below are suggestions on how to maintain an environmentally friendly garden and save money and time.



Invest your time and energy in native plants. Native plants have adapted to the local soils and climate, therefore require less attention. In addition, native plants last longer and use less water--saving you money.

Use flowering shrubs for color instead of using annuals. Annual flower beds require more water and are high maintenance.

When purchasing plants, ask how large a plant will get. Similar to puppies, you don't want to have a cute little shrub one day and an unmanageable tree in the future.

Planting trees may help you with your utility bill! By planting deciduous trees on the south and southwest-facing side of your house you can save money. Sun will come through during the winter and warm your house. During the summer you will have shade and a cooler home.



Compost at home. Composting at home is a natural and easy way to manage your yard trim materials. Mix your leaves, grass clippings, and garden prunings and place them in a compost bin. Compost will happen! Once the compost is ready, you will have a natural fertilizer for your garden.



Grasscycling reduces the time you spend cutting your lawn and helps you maintain a healthy lawn. In addition, you reduce the amount of fertilizer used on your lawn.

Visit our website for additional information about grasscycling and composting
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.



Volunteer Training Opportunities: Composting 101

Volunteers are invited to participate in a composting training session and learn all about composting at home! Compost bins and materials will be available.

Saturday,
June 13, 2009
10am to 11am



The **Composting 101** training session will be held at the Meadowside Nature Center located at 5100 Meadowside Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20855.

To register, contact Ana Arriaza at 240-777-6445 or e-mail ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Save the Date!

We will be honoring **YOU!** Please save the date for our Annual Volunteer Appreciation ceremony. This event is in honor of your hard work and dedication.

*Wednesday, June 3, 2009
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

*Executive Office Building
Terrace Level Cafeteria
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850*



More information will be mailed.

**Thank you for your time and
dedication to the Recycling
Volunteer Program!**

Spring Cleaning Tips

Spring cleaning provides an opportunity to recycle or dispose of materials you usually don't think about such as household hazardous waste. Below are simple tips that will help you be "green" in your home.



House cleaning

Household cleaning provides an opportunity to use green alternatives for cleaning supplies. If you want to learn more about the use of green alternatives, our "*Clean Ways to Do Dirty Jobs*" brochure is a great resource. The main idea is to minimize the use of potential hazardous products in your home. You can view and download a copy online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

Below are samples of inexpensive, environmentally-friendly cleaning hints that have easily accessible ingredients.

Furniture Polish

For unfinished wood, mix 1 teaspoon lemon oil with 1 pint mineral oil.

For finished wood, mix 2 parts olive or vegetable oil with 1 part lemon juice.

Window Cleaner

Mix 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice with 1 quart water.

Air Freshener

Simmer 1 teaspoon of cloves or vanilla or a cinnamon stick in 1 cup of water for 5 minutes.



One drive will take care of everything!

Once you start to clean, I bet you will have items you would like to dispose. If items are in working condition, consider donating them. If something is not in working condition, visit the Montgomery County

Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center. While you are there you can recycle or dispose of many different things.

Montgomery County residents can dispose of household hazardous waste at the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center. The Household Hazardous Waste receiving area is located in the recycling drop-off section of the Public Unloading Area at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center. The drop off site is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sunday - Saturday).



You may also have textiles that you no longer wear. Donate unwanted textiles to your favorite local charity. If the textiles have stains or can not be worn, bring them to the textile recycling area. Textiles are recycled into lots of items such as insulation and rags.

Do you have old pots and pans?

Pots and pans are accepted at the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center.

You can bring scrap metal such as metal pots and pans, cookie sheets, eating and cooking utensils, wire clothes hangers, and many other scrap metal items. You can visit our website for a list of acceptable items at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.



Don't forget, residents of single-family homes with County-provided recycling collection can also schedule a scrap metal collection from the County for larger scrap metal items, such as refrigerators and stoves. Please call by 11 am the business day before your regular recycling collection day.

The Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center is located at 16101 Frederick Road, Derwood. Please use the car entrance located off Route 355 and follow the signs to the recycling drop-off areas.

Recycling Volunteer Program

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES
RECYCLING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850**



Events Calendar

For more information about the events below, please contact the Recycling Volunteer Program at (240) 777-6445 or e-mail us at recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov.
All of our activities are approved Student Service Learning experiences.

Date	Time	Event	Location
May	9 10am to 2pm	Kensington Garrett Park Green Day Celebration	Kensington
	9 11am to 2pm	Cloverly Community Day Spring Fling	Silver Spring
	16 11am to 2pm	Health and Family Fair at Pembrige Community	Wheaton
	17 11am to 5pm	Taste of Wheaton	Wheaton
June	3 6pm to 8pm	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	Rockville
	13 10am to 11am	Composting Training	Rockville
	20 11am to 3pm	10th Annual Quince Orchard Library Festival	Gaithersburg



We will keep you updated as more events get added to the calendar!